REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. New claims 36-39 have been added. Claims 1-39 are now pending in the application. The rejections are respectfully submitted to be obviated in view of the remarks presented herein.

Applicants would additionally like to thank Examiner for the personal interview conducted at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on April 5, 2005. In the interview, the patentability of representative claim 1 was discussed. In addition, the reference Palmer (U.S. Patent Number 6,078,403) was also discussed as it related to the patentability of the claims.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) - Palmer

Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 10-14, 16, 18-28, 30, 32 and 34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being unpatentable over Palmer (U.S. Patent Number 6,078,403). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding claim 1, Applicants' claimed invention relates to a method of creating data for printing through page editing operation. A determination is made if there are any parts of a page that has not been received at the time of page editing, and dummy parts data is created for the unreceived parts. The dummy parts data is inserted in the place of unreceived parts in the page position allocated for the unreceived parts, creating dummy page data. The dummy parts data is replaced by received parts data when the unreceived parts data is received, thus creating page data for printing.

Turning to the cited art, Palmer discloses presentation and processing of a document having a variable data area. Portions of a base document are identified as variable data areas, where a page description language comment statement associated with each variable data area is

inserted within stored data. The comment statement includes format parameters of the variable data area and an identifier of selected variable data (see Abstract). As shown in Figure 2, the document presentation is set up by a variable data area definition program (formatting extension (42), field identification extension (43), and output extension (45)). The formatting extension (42) invoked by a user identifies and formats variable data areas within a base document (44). The field identification extension (43) identifies a field within a variable data file (48) that contains a variable data object to be presented within a particular variable data area of base document (44) (column 3, lines 53-61). The variable data areas are areas that the user desires to reserve for variable data objects (column 3, lines 48-53). A post processor (50) merges the variable data stored in variable data file (48) into corresponding areas within variable data areas in the base document (44) (column 4, lines 1-24).

As shown in Figure 3, the user enters dummy data for a variable data area, wherein the dummy data includes size and formatting information (64) for the variable data area. The user entered dummy data identifies the variable data that the user desires to insert into each respective dummy data region (column 5, lines 12-17). The user selects a dummy data region within the base document (44) that the user desires to define as a variable data area (column 5, lines 21-24).

In Figure 4, dummy variable data within a dummy data region is replaced, by the formatting extension (42), with page description language prolog (88), which are format parameters (column 6, lines 9-12). Additionally, the field identification extension (43) prompts the user to input the filename of a variable data file (48) that contains the variable data object to be presented within the selected variable data area of base document (44) (column 6, lines 32-37). "In response to the user specifying the filename of variable data file 48, the process

proceeds to block 194, which depicts field identification extension 43 prompting the user to select a record within variable data file 48" (column 6, lines 40-44). The field identification extension (43) then prompts the user to identify a field that contains the variable data object to be presented within the selected variable data area (column 6, lines 49-53).

However, Palmer does not determine if any parts of the page has not received corresponding parts data by the time of a page editing operation, as claimed in Applicants' invention. There is no unreceived parts data in Palmer. Instead, in Palmer, the user defines all variable data areas in a base document, and variable data objects are retrieved from a designated database during document processing (merging). Additionally, dummy data in Palmer is used solely to identify the variable data that the user desires to insert into the respective dummy data region (column 5, lines 7-20). Palmer does not use dummy parts data for inserting in a position on a page allocated for unreceived parts data.

Palmer retrieves variable data from a variable data file (48) and merges this data into corresponding variable data areas within the base document (52) (column 4, lines 1-14). Additionally, Palmer does not receive unreceived parts data to replace dummy parts data. The data in Palmer is already stored in the variable data file (48) and ready for merging. All fixed and variable information is generated upon creation of the base document (44) and variable data file (48). Palmer merges variable data with the base document (44) in order to create multiple versions of the document using the variable data. The user of the system of Palmer is relied upon to input the filename of the variable data file (48) containing the already existing variable data, in order to merge this existing data into the base document (44) (column 6, lines 32-44). Because all necessary data is already stored in the variable data file (48) and no unreceived parts

data exists, Palmer's document processing does not later receive previously unreceived parts data and replace the dummy parts data with such received data, as described in claim 1.

At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, the invention defined by Applicants' claim 1 is allowable over Palmer. Applicants' claims 2-4, 6, 8, 10 and 28 are dependent claims including all of the elements of independent claim 1, which, as established above, distinguishes over Palmer. Thus, claims 2-4, 6, 8, 10 and 28 are allowable over Palmer for the aforementioned reasons as well as for their additionally recited features.

Regarding claim 11, Applicants' claimed invention is a corresponding apparatus of method claim 1, and is allowable over Palmer for reasons similar to those as discussed above. Applicants' claims 12-14, 16, 18-20 and 30 are dependent claims including all of the elements of independent claim 11, which, as established above, distinguishes over Palmer. Thus, claims 12-14, 16, 18-20 and 30 are allowable over Palmer for the aforementioned reasons as well as for their additionally recited features.

Regarding claim 21, Applicants' claimed invention relates to a system for creating printing data during page editing and layout. Applicants' system comprises a data processing arrangement including a logic portion and another logic portion. The logic potion creates dummy parts data having link information for unreceived parts data, with the link information linking the dummy parts data with a storage location in a data processing arrangement. Dummy parts data is inserted in a position on the page allocated for the unreceived parts data. The another logic portion operates in background monitoring the storage location in the data processing arrangement, and replaces the dummy parts data with the parts data in accordance with the link information, when parts data is stored at the storage location.

Applicants' claimed invention is allowable over Palmer for reasons similar to those as discussed above. Additionally, Palmer fails to disclose another logic portion monitoring the storage location and replacing dummy parts data with parts data in accordance with link information, when parts data is stored at the storage location. At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, the invention defined by Applicants' claim 21 is patentable over Palmer. Applicants' claim 32 is a dependent claim including all of the elements of independent claim 21, which, as established above, distinguishes over Palmer. Thus, claim 32 is allowable over Palmer for the aforementioned reasons as well as for its additionally recited features.

Regarding claim 22, Applicants' claimed invention relates to a method of editing data. Applicants' method comprises creating application data with defined page layout and file link information, storing received data, creating dummy page data for data not yet received, and replacing the dummy page data with expected data.

Applicants' claimed invention is allowable over Palmer for reasons similar to those as discussed above. Data is already stored in the variable data file (48), thus, Palmer fails to teach or suggest "data not yet received." At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, the invention defined by Applicants' claim 22 is patentable over Palmer. Applicants' claims 23-27 and 34 are dependent claims including all of the elements of independent claim 21, which, as established above, distinguishes over Palmer. Thus, claims 23-27 and 34 are allowable over Palmer for the aforementioned reasons as well as for their additionally recited features. Reconsideration and allowance of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) - Palmer

Claims 5, 7, 9, 15 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Palmer. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' claimed invention relates to a method of creating data for printing through page editing operation, as recited in claims 1 and 11. A determination is made if there are any parts of a page that has not been received at the time of page editing, and dummy parts data is created for the unreceived parts. The dummy parts data is inserted in the place of unreceived parts in the page position allocated for the unreceived parts, creating dummy page data. The dummy parts data is replaced by received parts data when the unreceived parts data is received, thus creating page data for printing.

As discussed above, Palmer does not teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention as recited in claims 1 and 11. Applicants' claims {5, 7 and 9} and {15 and 17} are dependent claims including all of the elements of independent claims 1 and 11, respectively, which, as established above, distinguish over Palmer. Thus, claims 5, 7, 9, 15 and 17 are allowable over Palmer for the aforementioned reasons as well as for their additionally recited features. Reconsideration and allowance of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) - Palmer in view of Warmus et al.

Claims 29, 31, 33 and 35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Palmer in view of Warmus et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,332,149 B1) (hereinafter "Warmus"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Palmer fails to teach or suggest determining if any parts of the page has not received corresponding parts data by the time of a page editing operation. Additionally, Palmer does not even have unreceived parts data. Because all necessary data is already stored in the variable data file (48) and no unreceived parts data exists, Palmer's document processing does not later receive previously unreceived parts data and replace the dummy parts data with such received data. Furthermore, Applicants' claims recite that unreceived parts data is determined by absence of data in the database, as recited in representative claim 29. Palmer does not have unreceived parts data as Applicants have claimed.

Warmus does not remedy the deficiencies of Palmer. Warmus discloses the reproduction of images on a display device using master and variable information for creating different versions of a book. Different versions may contain additional pages or other customized information. Warmus' system has one set of template data for each section or version of a book, each set of template data including master data representing fixed information and area data in which variable information is to be printed. An area of a page is selected for reproduction of variable data therein, and name or field information is inserted into the template file as an insertion point definition. A dummy file along with an indication of the field name is inserted into the template file, such that a user will see the dummy file at the insertion point of the display when the page is viewed (column 11, line 62 through column 12, line 35.) A database is developed having entries representing variable information, specifying the locations on particular pages for the variable information (column 8, lines 3-7). The display device displays the sets of template data with selected variable information (summary, column 3, line 32 through column 4, line 35). The variable information is reproduced on the corresponding pages as stored in the

template files. Warmus incorporates blocks of process images and text in the template files. When variable information is found in a template file and includes a field name of the database, the image or text box is deleted from the template file and replaced with the field name from the database (column 13, line 24 through column 14, line 42). This process "fills in" placeholder information on a page with information from the database field (column 14, lines 58-63). Essentially, different versions of a book may be produced from multiple templates merging data with a database of variable information. Fixed information in the template file does not change, while variable information is linked to information stored in the database. Corresponding pages would differ in terms of the variable information stored in the database, and in some cases, would differ from fixed information depending on the design of the template files.

Examiner maintains that the combination of Palmer and Warmus teaches each feature of the claims. However, neither Palmer nor Warmus determine if any parts of the page has not received corresponding parts data by the time of a page editing operation. There is also no mention of unreceived parts data in either Palmer or Warmus. Furthermore, Applicants' unreceived parts data is determined by absence of data in the database. Warmus has data already stored in a database with which information is merged with templates representing different versions or customizations of a book. Additionally, Warmus does not receive unreceived parts data to replace dummy parts data. The data in Warmus is also already stored in a database ready for merging. Warmus' merging operation searches through the template and substitutes all instances of variable information with a linked image or text box which is stored in the database. Once the template has been processed completely and all image and text boxes in the template have been deleted and replaced with the field name and locations of selected corresponding

variable data from the database, the resulting template file is saved as a stripped master file. Processing is completed and no unreceived parts exist. All fixed and variable information is generated upon creation of the database and template files. Warmus' process does not later receive the previously unreceived parts data and replace the dummy parts data.

Warmus' disclosure states that the dummy indicates the proper database field name (column 12, lines 14-18). Because the dummy file actually has an associated database name, it cannot correspond to data unreceived. If the file has a name, then the data was obviously received. Applicants' claims 29, 31, 33 and 35 are dependent claims including all of the elements of independent claims 1, 11, 21 and 22, respectively. At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, the invention defined by Applicants' claims 29, 31, 33 and 35 are patentable over Palmer in view of Warmus. Reconsideration and allowance of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

Newly Added Claims

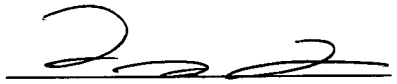
New claims 36-39 have been added to provide more varied protection for the present invention. Claims 36-39 are allowable based on at least their dependencies, as well as for their additionally recited features. That is, representative claim 36 recites that the unreceived parts data comprises data parts which are not yet provided to the computer. Neither Palmer nor Norris teach or suggest such unreceived parts data because the databases in both Palmer and Norris include data for merging which have already been provided, and thus are not unreceived parts data as Applicant claims.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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